GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2979
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
USE OF WASTELAND FOR BIO DIESEL ENERGY
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural wastelands are being used for Karanji tree plantations to produce Bio-diesel energy;

(b) if so, the progress of research and development made in this regard so far; and

(c) the time by which the results are expected in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) to (c) Research and Development activities are being carried out in the country through different R & D organizations on the development of technology for characterization of different vegetable oils, conversion of different non-edible oils to b.io-diesel, effect of these bio-fuels on conventional engines, optimum level of bio-fuel blends to be used, laying down the specifications of engine for the use of different bio-fuels, etc. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is also carrying out a Policy Analytical Study on Utilization of Ethanol Blends and other bio fuels in petrol and diesel vehicles. The studyis expected to make a review of technology regarding use of Ethanol and deviation in motor fuel, their economic and financial cost benefit analysis, their availability, macro and micro economic impacts of use of bio fuels as a substitute to petroleum products, etc. Piantation of trees, including bio-fuel plantations such as Jatropha Curcas, Karanja etc.on wastelands/degraded lands is an important activity under the ongoing watershed development programmes, namely the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and the Desert Deveiopment Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development.